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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00 ICA-11
DODE-00 H-01 IO-14 NSC-05 NSAE-00 HA-06 L-03
PM-09 PA-01 SP-02 SPRS-02 /098 W
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P R 032152Z APR 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3161
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2536

E. O. 12065: GDS 4/2/87 (MILLSPAUGH, ROBERT) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ES
SUBJ: (U) ARMED FORCES INSIST ON CORRECTNESS OF ITS LIST OF "TRAITORS"

REF: SAN SALVADORY 2458

1. (U) APRIL 2 NEWSPAPERS CARRY A NEW COMMUNIQUE FROM THE PRESS COMMITTEE OF THE ARMED FORCES RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT ITS ISSUANCE OF A LIST OF 138 TRAITORS. THE COMMUNIQUE INSISTS THAT THOSE LISTED ARE INDEED GUILTY OF THE FDR/FMLN ASSOCIATIONS CHARGED, BUT ADDS THAT THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE ACCUSED HAVE CHANGED THEIR WAYS. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE LATEST OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. (U) BEGIN QUOTE"...THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES WE DENOUNCED WERE NOT GATHERED IN A CAPRICIOUS MANNER, BUT ON THE CONTRARY WERE BASED ON DOCUMENTATION OBTAINED FROM THESE GROUPS (I.E. THOSE FOUND TO BE SUBVERSIVE) OR DOCUMENTATION FROM THE PERSONAL PAPERS OF THEIR DIRECTORS OR MEMBERS AND IN OTHER CASES FROM MATERIAL CAPTURED FROM THESE ORGANIZATION, OR SIMPLY FROM WHAT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. FOR THIS REASON THOSE WHO ARE PLACED IN THIS SITUATION ARE THE SAME TERRORIST SUBVERSIVES WHO CAN BE CATEGORIZED IN THESE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES: AS INTELLECTUAL DIRECTORS, EXECUTORS, COLLABORATORS OR SYMPATHIZERS.
""IF ANY OF THE PERSONS LISTED PROVES HIS INNOCENCE, WE THE ARMED FORCES WILL RECOGNIZE THIS.
FOR THE ARMED FORCES IT IS MAGNIFICANE IF THEY DO THIS, AND TO HAVE RENOUNCED THIS ACTIVITY IS PREFERABLE, SINCE NO ONE CAN BE PREVENTED FROM REPENTING. ON THE CONTRARY, WHOEVER MAKES A DECISION OF THIS KIND MERITS THE RESPECT AND RECOGNITION OF THE SOCIETY AND THE ARMED FORCES. WE KNOW THAT IT IS THE THE DESIRE OF THE AWARE CITIZENRY THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SERIOUS SITUATION WE ARE EXPERIENCING RENOUNCE THEIR ANTISOCIAL CONDUCT, OR CLARIFY FOR PUBLIC OPINION THEIR TRUE IDENTITY FOR THE GOOD OF THE SALVADORAN FAMILYAND COUNTRY." END QUOTE.

3. (U) THE ARCHBISHOPRIC HAS ISSUED ITS OWN COMMUNIQUE WHICH REITERATES ITS RESPECT FOR THE ARMED FORCES AS AN INSTITUTION, CALLS ON IT TO "EVALUATE BETTER ITS SOURCES OF INFORMATION," AND DENIES THAT THE TWO PRIESTS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION WHO WERE NAMED ON THE LIST ARE SUBVERSIVES. IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE JESUITS, THE ARCHBISHOPRIC CAREFULLY ADDS THAT IT IS NOT IMPLYING THAT OTHER PRIESTS NAMED ARE SUBVERSIVES "IN AN ABSOLUTE SENSE."

4. (U) ABOUT TEN OF THE 138 LISTED HAVE NOW PUBLISHED LETTER PROCLAIMING THEIR INNOCENCE. THE STRONGEST COMES FROM THE WOMAN WHO IS PUBLICITY DIRECTOR FOR THE SALVADORAN INSTITUTE FOR AGRARIAN REFORM: BEGIN QUOTE... THESE TYPES OF ACCUSATIONS ARE EXTREMELY SERIOUS-EXPERIENCE HAS PROVED TO US THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES REIGNING IN OUR COUNTRY, THEY ALMOST REPRESENT A REAL CONDEMNATION TO DEATH.... TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT EVEN UNDER THE MOST FEROCIOUS DICTATORSHIPS A PERSON IS NOT CONDEMNED WITHOUT BEING HEARD O OR OVERCOME IN A FAIR FIGHT, I USE MY RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP, EMPHATICALLY REJECTING THE ACCUSATIONS...END QUOTE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC, MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 3 JUL 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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